

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/889,587

Amendment dated September 8, 2003

Reply to OA of June 10, 2003

REMARKS

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-5 will be pending in this application. Applicants propose amendment of claim 1 in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. Also, applicants propose adding new claim 5. The basis of the amendment in claims 1 and 5 is found at page 4, lines 16-21. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated June 10, 2003.

Claim Rejection 35USC102

Claim 1, 2, and 4 were rejected under 35U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Homma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,981,728).

The introduction ratio in claim 1 is amended into not less than 95%. The introduction ratio of 95% is not disclosed, taught nor suggested by Homma et al. Therefore, the rejection is unsupported as to the amended claims. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection 35USC103

Claim 3 was rejected under 35U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Homma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,981, 728) in view of Watabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,811,566).

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Claim 1 is amended to define the introduction ratio as not less than 95%. As to the amended claim 3, even if Homma et al. is combined with Watabe et al., the invention as recited in claim 3 cannot be obtained. Thus, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.


In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-5, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP


Stephen G. Adrian
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 32,878

SGA/SY/mt
Atty. Docket No. 010930
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



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